

BOARD OF LICENSURE OF WATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATORS
February 26, 2004 Meeting

Members Present:

Trevor Hunt (Chairman)
Teresa Trott
David Bartlett
Carlton Gardner
Alan Frasier
David Beaulieu

Others Present:

Beth Pratte
Carol Champagne
Roger Crouse
Bill Johnson

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:20.

A motion was made by Terry Trott and Carlton Gardner 2nd it. Motion made to elect the chairman and vice chairman for the year 2004. Trevor Hunt as chairman and Carlton Gardner vice chairman. Motion accepted.

General Administration:

Meeting Minutes: Carlton Gardner made a motion to approve the November 20, 2003 minutes as revised and Dave Bartlett 2nd. Minutes were accepted as revised.

ABC Conference: Terry Trott has reviewed fees from some other states and found some fees to be \$65 per exam if an electronic exam is offered the cost may have an additional \$85 for proctoring and computer access. ABC will be offering electronic exams in the future. Terry Trott found the ABC Conference to be very worthwhile and informative She has summarized the conference and sent copies to Board members. Other states are also concerned with the potential system classification point increase for Arsenic and radiological treatment.

Paul Gauvreau, from the Attorney General's office, reviewed the statutes and noted the operator's social security number should be on the exam application. New applications will have the SSN, but this number is to be protected when giving out operator information

Financial: So far we have 357 exams that will be given in April 2004. We have 200 operators and 315 exams scheduled for Augusta, and 24 operators and 42 exams scheduled for Presque Isle.

Collected

Expenses

\$8,868

\$21,675

These do not include all exam fees

All ABC bills are paid. Membership is paid. Exams for reimbursement: approximately 208.

The Board needs the increase in its exam fees in order to continue staying in the black.

License Renewals:

There are 310 operators that have renewed their licenses, 30 have not reported and 10 are on hold for TCHs. The Drinking Water Program will check all systems requiring a licensed operator so all systems will be in compliance.

Old Business:

Rule Change: The rule changes are on John R. Nicholas desk, the new Commissioner. The Board's name change and exam fee increase is awaiting approval before moving to the next step: the public hearing.

The Board is concerned due to the urgency of having a public hearing notice posted. Terry Trott was directed to set a hearing date as soon as she heard back from the commissioner's office.

Licensed operators serving in the military reserves and called to active duty have their TCh requirements prorated. These are noted in the operators file.

Education Requirements: The Board has three people have applied to sit for an exam that do not have a high school diploma or GED.

Terry Trott discussed with Linda Tsang from EPA the issue of a GED being required to sit for the exam. Concerns are for the system to have a satisfactory compliance record (no more than 2 violations of any type in 24 months.) The operator will get the waiver not the system.

David Bartlett commented that at the September meeting The Board had voted against changing the educational requirement. This was due to EPA's stand on backsliding. Later discussions with EPA allowed for a proposal to be made concerning a small number of grandparented operators. David Bartlett made a motion to abandon changing the requirements because the rules state that an operator needs a high school diploma or a GED and that must hold. The motion was not seconded.

In Paul Gauvreau's letter for rule changes it states a group of present day operators will be redefined and will be called "grandparented operators" that is a very small group. A change of rules in January 2000 included all non-transient, non-community water systems. Specifically excluded were schools, mobile home parks, homeowners and associations. These newly affected water public systems may not have been sufficiently notified of the rule changes. In the draft to be approved paragraph two "b" and "c" will be removed. Carlton Gardner made a motion to send a letter of request to EPA after revisions. Alan Frasier 2nd it. Motion passed.

Grandparented operators will still be required to pass the very small water system examination. The Proposed Rule Changes are noted.

A restricted license shall be issued to a person who applies and passes the VSWS examination. This is the only classification that will be affected by the education requirement waiver.

TCH's Relevancy: A sample course relevancy list was circulated for Board comments. The Board suggests courses that are relevant to treatment and distribution licenses. The Board will review the course topics report to Terry their input on acceptable and not acceptable training courses. This will then be circulated to training organizations for comment before final discussion.

The present training requirement in the rules will be reviewed and proposed changes will be discussed at the next meeting.

Complaint Procedure Policy: The Board can put it in rule or policy and that will be reviewed at rule making time. Alan asked for a summary Board procedure. Terry will get the information of other sources.

Board Appointments: The Board has six applicants that have sent in resumes for the Governor to go over for appointments to the Board. It is still in the process.

New Business:

VSWS Exam Content/Pass Rate: The pass rate is reviewed with MRWA each exam session. Maine Rural Water Association has two new instructors.

Training Grant RFP: a) pre exam was re-awarded to MRWA for the pre-exam training. b) Continuing Education will be reviewed and hopefully proposed by May.

Training Course Materials: We have correspondent and internet courses listed. The New England Certification officers are reviewing methods for best accepting these courses.

Exams (Sequential vs Multiple Entry) A group reviewed sequential versus multiple entry exams and reported back to the Board. It was the suggestion of the review committee to accept use of the multiple entry examinations now being offered by ABC. The question still arises on cost of exams needing to be increased.

ABC expects to have the ability to have all exams available on-line by 2005.

Security questions review: ABC has received a grant from EPA to include security questions on the operator exams. They are looking for question reviewers. The Board has asked for volunteers.

TCH's Providers – Bangor and Auburn Water Districts are interested in becoming TCH providers. Beth and Terry will set up an informational meeting for the requirements of these establishments to become providers.

Other Business: Reciprocity licenses. Reciprocity of a license on a probationary status could/would be given a full license, as our wording does not address the issue. The issue will be discussed with the Attorney General's Office for guidance.

Next Meeting:
April 1, 2004, 9:00 am Augusta Water District.

Carlton Gardner made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Alan Frasier 2nd it.

Meeting adjourned 12:15 p.m.